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(54) CLOTHES HOOKS

(71) We, GEBRUDER HAPICH G.M.B.H., a German Body Corporate, of Neuerteich, 62/76, 56 Wuppertal-Elberfeld, German Federal Republic, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to clothes hooks and has been devised to meet a need for a clothes hook which is more safe when mounted in passenger motor vehicles than those used hitherto.

The clothes hooks provided in vehicles generally project into the interior of the vehicle so that, in the event of an accident or of an unforeseen jolt of the vehicle, they endanger the occupants if they are thrown against the hooks.

In order to reduce this risk, a clothes hook has been developed having a clothes-suspending claw which, when not in use, is sunk into an upholstery recess of the vehicle and is retained herein by a spring. The claw is arranged to be moved by its own weight into its operative position as soon as an arrester mechanism has been released. A disadvantage of this hook is that, after having been used, it must be pushed back into its inoperative position. This is frequently forgotten or, being a troublesome job, simply ignored. Moreover, the claw in its fully operative position always projects into the interior of the vehicle no matter what kind of clothes will be hung up on it. A further disadvantage of this hook is that it comprises various components each requiring to be fixed separately in the vehicle. The separately-mountable components can function only if their operation is properly co-ordinated. This proper co-ordination causes considerable expense as regards their manufacture and their installation.

With these considerations in mind, the present invention is directed to a clothes hook consisting of two components only, of which one is an apertured fixing plate while the other one is a clothes-suspending claw adapted to be mounted in the aperture of the fixing plate for

pivotal movement between an operative position and an inoperative position against the biasing force of a resilient projection provided on one of the two components, the rear face of the fixing plate being provided with two notched bearing brackets respectively disposed at opposite edges of the aperture and capable of receiving, as a push-fit, a pivot pin or two pivot pin stumps of the claw.

In order that the invention may be thoroughly understood, two clothes hooks in accordance with it will now be described in detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawing, in which:—

Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of one form of clothes hook according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear view of a fixing plate being one component of the hook illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of the clothes hook illustrated in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view along the line A—A in Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view along the line B—B in Fig. 3; and

Fig. 6 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of a second form of clothes hook according to the invention.

Figures 1—5 of the drawing show a clothes hook 1 which comprises one component in the form of an apertured fixing plate 2 and a clothes-suspending claw 3 as another component. The reverse face 2a of the fixing plate 2 is provided with two spaced-apart, parallel and rearwardly extending small bearing brackets 4 and 5 which are formed integrally with, and are of the same material as, the fixing plate. Alternatively, the brackets may be formed as separate elements and fixed to the plate by any suitable means.

The bearing brackets are disposed at two oppositely disposed vertical edges of an aperture 6 in the plate 2. The claw comprises a first section 3b having a bevelled free end for suspending the clothes and a second section 3a angularly offset with respect to the first section. The section 3a is insertable into the aperture 6 and may be provided with a pivot pin or instead thereof, as in the embodiment illus-

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trated, with two pin stumps 7 which at their one ends are integral with the section 3a while their other ends are free, respectively. The pin or stumps 7 is or are mounted, after the section 3a has been inserted into the aperture 6, in respective notches in the bearing brackets 4 and 5 in which it or they is or are pivotally held. After insertion, the upper free edge 8 of the section 3a abuts on a resilient projection 9 disposed on a rearwardly extending portion of the face 2a of the fixing plate 2, the projection 9 extending transversely to and between the brackets 4, 5 and causing in assembly the claw 3 to be pushed into a recess 10 in the front face of the fixing plate 2 - this being the inoperative position of the claw 3 - so that the latter forms a substantially continuous surface with the front face of the fixing plate 2.

In order to slip a clothes tag easily over the first section of the claw 3 without having to turn the latter by hand from its inoperative position against the force of the resilient projection 9, the fixing plate 2 is provided at a height substantially level with the free end 3b of the first section of the claw 3 with a recess formerly a portion of reduced cross section extending laterally of the axis X-X of the recess 10 and of the plate 2 respectively, the recess being upwardly of the free end 3b and forming shoulders 11 between which the free end 3b engages so as to provide small clearances between the shoulders 11 and the side edges and the top edge of the free end 3b for the passage of a conventional clothes tag or like looped means for suspending clothes.

A second form of clothes hook is shown in Fig. 6. The resilient projection 9' in this hook is formed integrally with the second section of the claw 3 so that the claw is urged by the resilient force of the projection into its inoperative position in the same manner as described with reference to the hook illustrated in Figs. 1 to 5. A simple arrester pin - not illustrated - may be formed integrally with the second section 3a of the claw 3 to render it possible to retain, if desired, the claw against the resilient force of the projection 9' in a predetermined operative position.

The clothes hook may be fixed by means of screws or any other conventional fastening element to a suitably shaped surface such as an internal wall in a motor vehicle.

It will be appreciated that, in the clothes hooks illustrated in the drawings, the clothes tag will in use be retained within the recess 10 and the aperture 6 and the claw 3 - unless arrested in a predetermined position specially provided - will remain closely adjacent to the fixing plate 2 to form a substantially continuous surface with the front face of the latter. In other words, even if the thickness of the clothes

tag (or other article to be suspended) necessitates the pivotal outward opening of the claw, once the tag has passed the clearances between the shoulders and the side and top edges of the free end of the claw, the latter will return to its inoperative position, which will be identical with its operative position.

If the garment to be suspended on the hook is tag-less, i.e. at the region of suspension is thicker than the said clearances, the claw will no longer be flush with the front of the fixing plate, but will still be resiliently biased toward the latter by the resilient projection.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:-

1. A clothes hook consisting of two components only, of which one is an apertured fixing plate while the other one is a clothes-suspending claw adapted to be mounted in the aperture of the fixing plate for pivotal movement between an operative position and an inoperative position against the biasing force of a resilient projection provided on one of the two components, the rear face of the fixing plate being provided with two notched bearing brackets respectively disposed at opposite edges of the aperture and capable of receiving, as a push-fit, a pivot pin or two pivot pin stumps of the claw.

2. A clothes hook according to claim 1, wherein the resilient projection is integral with the fixing plate and is disposed on the rear face of the latter.

3. A clothes hook according to claim 2, wherein the resilient projection is disposed between the bearing brackets at an edge of the aperture.

4. A clothes hook according to claim 1, wherein the resilient projection is integral with that part of the claw which is insertable into the aperture of the fixing plate.

5. A clothes hook according to any preceding claim, wherein the front face of the fixing plate has a recess which is capable of receiving the claw in the inoperative position of the latter.

6. A clothes hook according to any preceding claim, wherein the fixing plate is provided at a height substantially level with the free end of the claw (when assembled) with a portion of reduced cross-section so as to provide for an unhindered passage of a clothes tag between the free end of the claw and the corresponding portion of the fixing plate.

7. A clothes hook substantially as herein described with reference to Figs. 1 to 5 or Fig. 6 of the accompanying drawing.

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